

## The Christian Education of the Negro

By the Committee of Colored Evangelization of the  
Southern Presbyterian Church

Headquarters: Stillman Institute, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

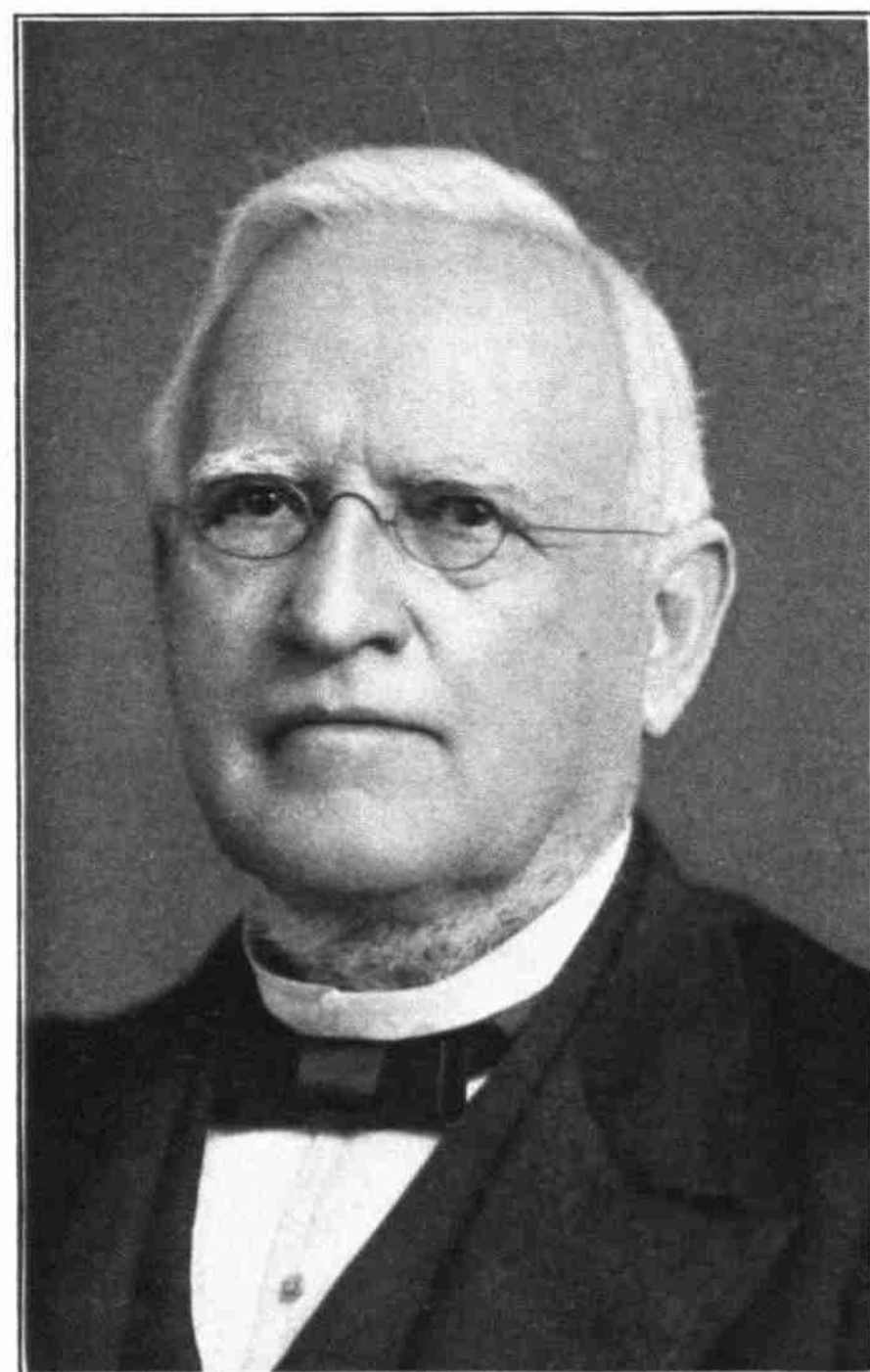
Rev. JAMES G. SNEDECOR, LL.D., Secretary

**T**HE Southern Presbyterian Church, during the first ten years after the war, gave much time and attention to the consideration of matters affecting the future of the Negroes of the South.

Among the plans agreed upon was one for the organization of an Independent Presbyterian Church among the Negroes, but before it could be carried out most of the 18,000 colored

members of white churches joined the Northern Presbyterian churches which had been organized among them.

After the loss of most of their Negro members, the Southern Presbyterian Church turned its attention to what seemed to be the most urgent need of the race,—an educated ministry,—and, in 1875, a committee was appointed “to consider the propriety of establishing an institution for the education of colored preachers.” In 1876, this committee re-



REV. CHARLES ALLEN STILLMAN, D.D.

ported, earnestly urging the General Conference to take up this work. The report was adopted, and Dr. Charles Allen Stillman, pastor of an old and aristocratic church at Tuscaloosa, Ala., became the principal and professor of theology in a school that was opened in Tuscaloosa.

The school was adopted by the General Assembly of the Church. A cottage was bought for school rooms, and a boarding department was arranged.

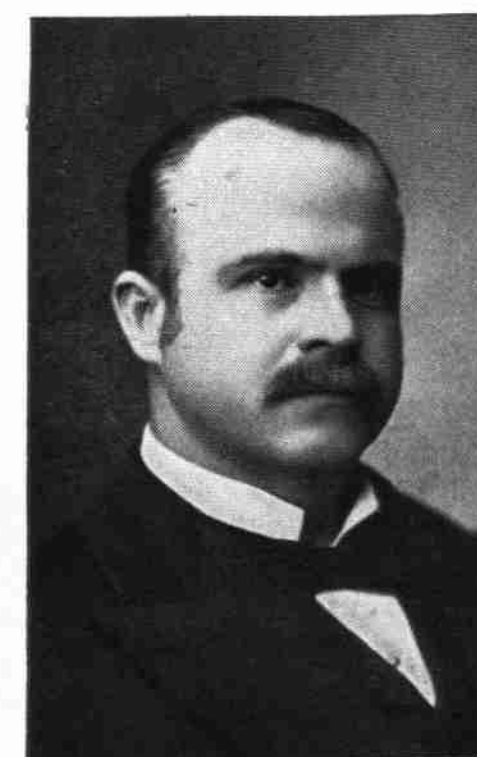
For nineteen years, Dr. Stillman, who lived in the house where John H. Vincent (now Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and one of the world's great Sunday-school leaders) was born, was principal of the school and labored incessantly for its success.

During this time, he retained the pastorate of the white church, and thus gave the struggling Negro school the prestige of his position and influenced the Southern Presbyterian Church to extend its operations in behalf of the Negroes.

The General Assembly requested the churches to contribute to the support of the institution. The first annual collection amounted to \$400. After thirty years, the annual offering amounts to \$15,000. Starting with 6 students, the Institute now has an attendance of 60.

In 1890, the General Assembly of the church, impressed by the devotion of Dr. Stillman and his associates at Tuscaloosa, and their success in training men for the ministry, appointed an “Executive Committee on Colored Evangelization” and elected Rev. A. L. Phillips, D.D., Secretary, to give his full time to “creating a kind and helpful spirit among the white Presbyterians of the South towards their black neighbors.” He traveled widely, presenting earnestly this subject in the churches, and laid the foundation for an adequate support of Tuscaloosa Institute, and of other lines of missionary effort of the church.

In 1895, the good Dr. Stillman passed to his reward. By order of the General Assembly, the school he had founded and cared for so long was called “Stillman Institute.” The committee on colored organization took charge of the school and elected Dr. Phillips as principal. He retained this position three years, when, discouraged by the failure of the church to properly support the work, he reluctantly resigned, and Rev. D. Clay Lilly, who was Dr. Stillman's successor as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, was elected secretary and superintendent of Stillman Institute, and entered earnestly into the work.



Dr. A. L. Phillips